

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

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DEPARTMENT PASS AS APPROPRIATE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR FR XA EAID EFIN

SUBJECT: THIRD FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE

REFS: (A) PARIS 13824; (B) PARIS 14260

1. BECAUSE KEY QUAI OFFICIALS ARE STILL TIED UP WITH CONFERENCE OF FRENCH AMBASSADORS TO AFRICAN COUNTRIES WHICH FOLLOWED FRANCO-AFRICAN SUMMIT, WE PLAN DELAY FULL REPORT ON SUMMIT UNTIL NEXT WEEK. THIS CABLE PROVIDES SOME EARLY INFORMATION ABOUT ITS ECONOMIC ASPECTS.

2. WELL-INFORMED CONTACT AT MINISTRY OF COOPERATION DESCRIBED COMMUNIQUE PROPOSAL OF SPECIAL FUND FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT (FONDS EXCEPTIONEL DE PROMOTION DE

L'AFRIQUE)(REFTEL B), AS "POLITICALLY" MOTIVATED DEPARTURE FROM TRADITIONAL GOF OPPOSITION TO CREATION OF NEW DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTIONS. OFFICIAL DENIED THAT PROPOSAL ORIGINATED IN MINISTRY OF COOPERATION, INTIMATING THAT QUAI OR ELYSEE CONCERN REGARDING GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE IN AFRICA, AS WELL AS AFRICAN PRESSURE FOR INCREASED FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, WAS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS INITIATIVE.

3. GOF DECISIONS,ANNOUNCED AT CONFERENCE,TO PARTICIPATE IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND AND TO SET UP AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND WERE ANTICIPATED IN MINISTRY OF COOPERATION. MINISTRY OF FINANCE OPPOSITION TO GOF PARTICIPATION IN AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT FUND HAS FINALLY BEEN OVERCOME, HE SAID, BUT DID NOT KNOW THE SIZE OF THE FRENCH CONTRIBUTION. CREATION OF AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND IS FOLLOW-THROUGH ON INITIATIVE LAUNCHED BY GOF AT SECOND FRANCO-AFRICAN CONFERENCE (BANGUI) IN 1975, WHICH COULD NOT BE POSTPONED IN FACE OF AFRICAN COUNTRIES' EXPECTATIONS AT PARIS CONFERENCE.

4. ACCORDING TO OFFICIAL, SPECIAL FUND FOR AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT, IN CONTRAST, IS CONFERENCE-ENDORSED GOF PROPOSAL INTENDED TO PROVOKE EUROPEAN AND U.S. CONSIDERATION OF SPECIAL DANGERS AND PROBLEMS IN AFRICA IN WAKE OF GROWING SOVIET INFLUENCE AND HIGHER LEVEL OF AFRICAN EXPECTATIONS REFLECTED IN CIEC AND UNCTAD. ANNOUNCED PURPOSES OF SPECIAL FUND WERE CAREFULLY PHRASED IN TERMS OF GOALS ALREADY HAVING HIGH PROFILE IN NORTH-SOUTH DIALOGUE: AID TO DROUGHT-STRUCK COUNTRIES, TRANSFER OF AGRICULTURAL TECHNOLOGY, DEVELOPMENT OF MINERAL RESOURCES, DEVELOPMENT OF LDC INFRASTRUCTURE.

5. GOF PROPOSAL LOOKS TO FORMER EUROPEAN COLONIAL POWERS TO SUPPORT SPECIAL FUND, BUT CONFERENCE COMMUNIQUE AND GOF PROPOSAL SEEM TO SOLICIT USG PARTICIPATION. PERHAPS WITH POSSIBLE USG PARTICIPATION IN MIND, COMMUNIQUE DOES NOT MENTION GOF PROPOSAL TO ESTABLISH "AFRO-EUROPEAN INSTITUTE", WHICH WOULD LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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FACILITATE TRANSFER OF PRIVATE SECTOR TECHNOLOGY.
(NOTE: COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO 50 PERCENT FUNDING BY GOF APPLIES TO AFRICAN SOLIDARITY FUND ONLY, NOT AS OTHERWISE REPORTED IN REFTEL A, PARA 4.).
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